Allopathic medicines *vis-a-vis* other systems

217. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Allopathic system of medicines is comparatively expensive than other systems such as Homoepathic medicines, Ayurvedic, Unani and Herbal systems of medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that Allopathic medicines are not only most expensive, but also have more side-effects than other systems of medicines practised in India; and

(c) whether Government have been continuously encouraging the use of Allopathic medicines, by establishing more medical colleges, hospitals, health centres and sub-health centres for such purpose, whereas other systems of medicines are not equally encouraged; if so, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The cost of medicines depends on many factors, including overall cost of therapy, availability of drugs and also research and development. As such, it can not be generalised that Allopatthic System of Medicine, is comparatively expensive than other systems of medicines.

(b) The side effects are seen both with Allopathic System of Medicines and other system of medicines. It is not possible to compare the incidence of side effect with both the systems. However, such effects are well documented over the years and well known to the practitioners in Allopathic System of Medicines.

(c) Government is eqully encouraging all the systems of medicines depending on the requirement and demands of the patients and infrastructure available.